

## CHAPTER 10

### SECTION 2.8C

# MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

Issue Date: February 24, 1988

Authority: [32 CFR 199.6\(c\)\(3\)\(iv\)\(C\)](#)

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#### I. ISSUE

##### Mental Health Counselors

#### II. POLICY

A. **Provider Certification.** A mental health counselor may provide covered mental health services upon the referral and under the supervision of a physician. The mental health counselor must meet the following criteria:

1. A master's degree in mental health counseling or allied mental health field from a regionally accredited institution; and

2. Two years of post-master's experience which includes 3,000 hours of clinical work and 100 hours of face-to-face supervision; and

3. Licensure or certification as a mental health counselor.

a. If licensure/certification is offered by the jurisdiction in which the provider is practicing, it is required in all cases, even if the jurisdiction offers it on an optional basis. Contractors must verify licensure/certification rules for jurisdictions not included below. The following jurisdictions provide licensure or certification for mental health counselors:

Alabama  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
California  
Colorado  
Delaware  
District of Columbia  
Florida  
Georgia  
Idaho  
Illinois  
Iowa  
Kansas

Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Michigan  
Mississippi  
Missouri  
Montana  
Nebraska  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New Mexico  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Ohio  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming

or

b. In jurisdictions that do not offer licensure, the mental health counselor must be (or must meet all of the requirements to become) a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) as determined by the Clinical Academy of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). Certification can be verified by checking the NBCC's Register of Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselors or by calling NBCC at (910) 547-0607. Acceptable proof that the mental health counselor meets all the requirements to become a CCMHC is a letter (or other written documentation) from the Clinical Academy of the NBCC stating that the provider meets the requirements to be certified by the NBCC as a CCMHC.

B. The utilization review system for claims that fall under the Managed Care Support Contract are subject to the mental health treatment utilization review system as specified by contract. All other mental health claims are handled in accordance with **OPM Part Two, Chapter 17**.

C. Physician Referral and Supervision. (See the **Chapter 10, Section 2.1** or **32 CFR 199.6**).

### III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The [32 CFR 199.6](#) specifies that a Mental Health Counselor must have a minimum of a master's degree in mental health counseling or allied mental health field from a regionally accredited institution. This criterion is met if the licensing or certifying jurisdiction or organization accepts the master's degree (which must be from a regionally accredited institution) for licensure or certification.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE                      February 24, 1988

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